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COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Gay Christian

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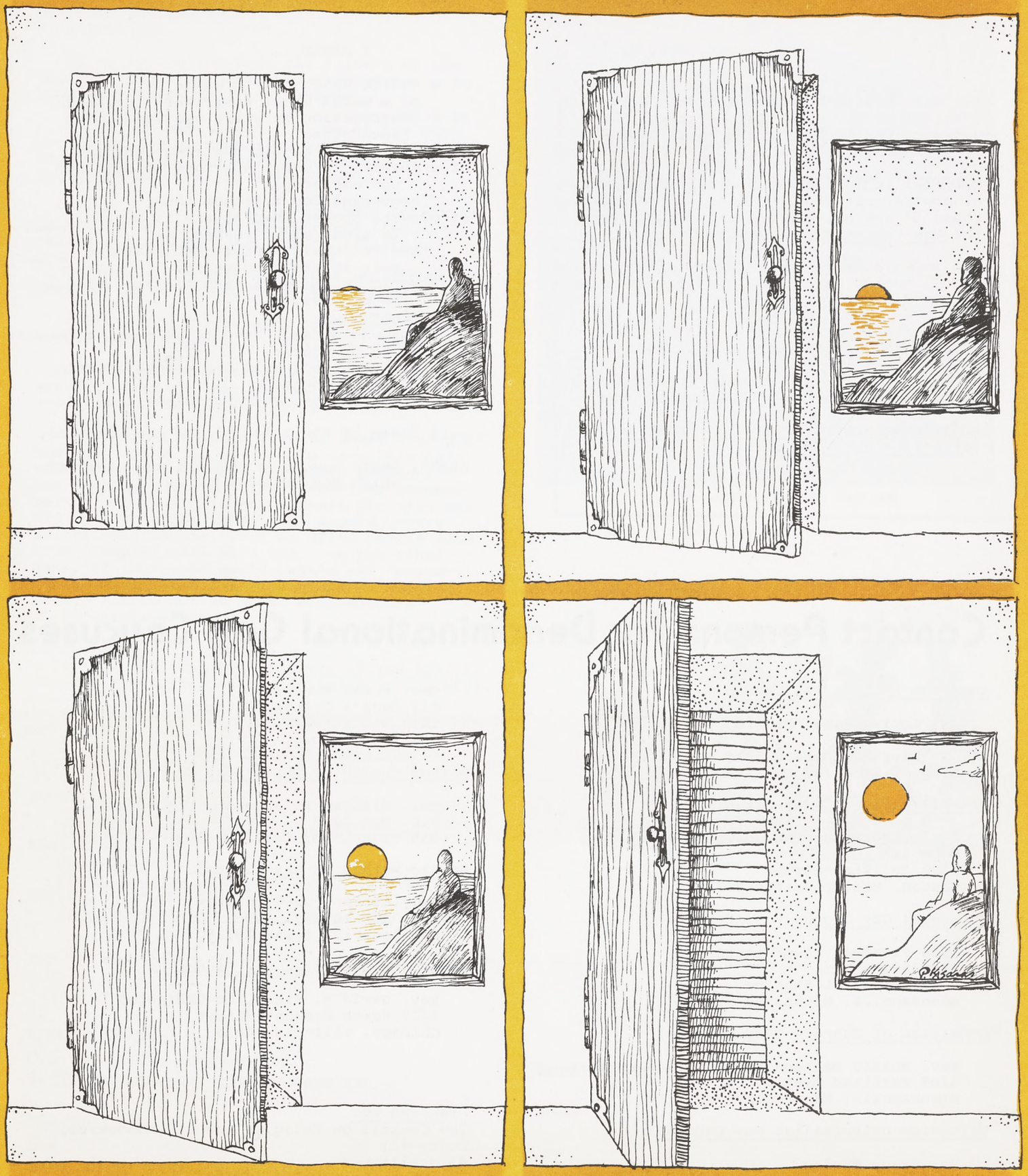

Can you close an opening door?

See "Come In And Out The Closet"

The Gay Christian

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Roy Birchard, editor
James E. Ricketson, copy and circulation

George Buehler, layout
Pat Kasaras, cover

We welcome articles and news about Gay Christians everywhere.

"I Dream..."

by Susan Day,
Women's Rap Group, MCC New York

I DREAM...

of a church which has no walls,
of a world where everywhere is church;
of a congregation in which everyone loves
each other,
and that's why it's a congregation;
of a service in which everyone holds hands
and embraces,
embracing God together then;
of prayers spoken when no one is afraid
to speak aloud to God,
and let their sisters and brothers
join in their thoughts;
of a world in which we each minister to
each other,
always;
of a God who doesn't have to be male or female,
white or black;
of a God who isn't only for male or female,
old or young,
rich or poor, white or black;

...I dream of the time I'll be one with God.

ALPHA, begin now to struggle toward that of
which you dream.

Contact Persons For Denominational Gay Caucuses

American Baptist Gay Caucus

Ms. Louise Rose, President
Apt. A-405
649 South Henderson Road
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

DIGNITY/National (Gay Catholics

Paul Diederich, Executive Director
Room 514
1105 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Episcopal Gay Caucus

John Preston, Co-Ordinator
Box 3592
Upper Nicollet Station
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Committee of Concern (Gay Friends)

Rev. Ronald Mattson, Executive Secretary
3208 Portland Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

Unitarian Universalist Gay Caucus

Ms. Sandy Szelag
5306 South Hyde Park Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Rev. Frank Robertson
All Soul's Unitarian Church
16th and Harvard, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

United Church of Christ Gay Caucus

Rev. William R. Johnson, Co-Ordinator
P.O. Box 1250
San Francisco, Calif. 94101

United Methodist Gay Caucus

Troy Stokes, Co-Ordinator
2355 Austin Hwy. #68
San Antonio, Texas 78218

United Presbyterian Gay Caucus

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2217 North Fremont Street
Chicago, Illinois 60614

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itself has nothing to do with the experience with the Holy Spirit.

Some of our churches have solved the problem of what to do with the charismatic movement by holding two worship services--one aimed at the traditional modes of worship, and the second a more evangelical type meeting.

It is my feeling that the fulness of the Holy Spirit in our churches is a most necessary thing for five reasons:

1. We are ministering to one of the most gospel-neglected people on earth. We need that same power the early church had to carry out our mission effectively.

2. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live Christ-centered lives and to deliver others from Satan's lifestyle.

3. The Holy Spirit will lead and direct our churches according to God's will (John 14).

4. The Holy Spirit will cause each member to be a real support to each local church.

5. His welcomed presence in our midst will serve to confirm that God has indeed ordained and blessed our ministry to gay people (Acts 10).

In closing, I would like to share a word of caution. Some who profess to have this marvelous experience with the third person of the Trinity seem to think themselves somehow better than brothers and sisters who have not had similar experiences. We should beware self-righteousness, lest we drive people away from a deeper walk with God. On the other hand, to those who would outlaw all "pentecostal manifestations" I would say, as did Paul, "Forbid not to speak with tongues" (I Corinthians 14:39).

Footnotes:

1. A.J. Gordon, The Ministry of the Spirit, (London, 1894, Baptist Tract and Book Society), pp. 67-68.
2. Arthur McGiffert, The Apostolic Age, pp. 527, 652.
3. Colville, Universal Spiritualism, p. 234, and Hastings, p. 91.

Suggested Reading:

Aglow with the Spirit.
The Holy Spirit and You, Dennis Bennett, Logos Publishing.
Ministry of the Spirit, A.J. Gordon.
Power for the Body of Christ, Michael Harper, Fountain Trust, London.
They Speak with Other Tongues, John Sherril.

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THE REV. J.E. PAUL BRETON, DISTRICT COORDINATOR

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P.O. Box 1145
Baltimore, Maryland 21203
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27th & St. Paul Streets
(St. John's United Methodist Church).
Phone: None.
The Rev. J.E. Paul Breton, interim pastor.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON
131 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
Services: Sunday, 7 p.m.
Phone: (617) 523-7664.
The Rev. Laurence G. Bernier, pastor.
The Rev. Nancy Wilson, associate minister.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS STUDY GROUP
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
50 Monroe Place
Brooklyn, New York 11201
Services: Sunday, 2 p.m.
Pierrepont and Monroe Place
(First Unitarian Church)
Phone: (212) 662-7400 Ext. 717.
The Rev. Howard R. Wells, interim pastor.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT STUDY GROUP
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
P.O. Box 514
Hartford, Connecticut 06101
Services: Sunday, 3 p.m.
Phone: (203) 525-3523.
Mr. F. Jay Deacon, worship coordinator.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK
P.O. Box 1757
General Post Office
New York, N.Y. 10001
Services: Sunday, 7 p.m.,
Ninth Avenue at 28th Street
(Church of the Holy Apostles).
Phone: (212) 674-4850 and
369-8513 (pastor's residence).
The Rev. Roy Birchard, pastor.

PENN STATE CAMPUS MINISTRY
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Services: Sunday, 7 p.m.,
Eisenhower Chapel, Penn State
University Campus,
University Park, Pennsylvania.
Mr. Charles Rinear,
worship coordinator.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA
P.O. Box 8174
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101
Services: Sunday, 8 p.m.
2125 Chestnut Street
(First Unitarian Church)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
410 Waterman Avenue
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914
Services: Sunday, 7 p.m.
Phone: (401) 434-0668.
The Rev. Arthur Cazeault, pastor.

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES
Suite 211
373 North Western Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90004
Phone: (213) 462-6521.
The Rev. Troy D. Perry, moderator,
board of elders.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF
WASHINGTON, D.C.
P.O. Box 40551
Palisades Station
Washington, D.C. 20016
Services: Sunday, 3 p.m.
10th & G Streets, N.W.
(Alcord Chapel, First Congregational
United Church of Christ)
Phone: (703) 528-3783.
The Rev. John M. Barbone, pastor.

Other Gay Religious Groups in the Northeast

THE CHURCH OF THE BELOVED DISCIPLE
348 West 14th Street
New York, N.Y. 10014
Services: Sunday, 2 p.m.
Phone: (212) 242-6616.
The Rev. Robert M. Clement, pastor.

THE COMMITTEE OF CONCERN (Gay Friends)
357 Dean Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217

DIGNITY: An Organization of Gay Catholics.

DIGNITY: Baltimore.
c/o Sr. Jeannine Gramick
St. Jerome Convent
761 Hamburg Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

DIGNITY: Boston.
1105 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

DIGNITY: New York/New Jersey
P.O. Box 1554
F.D.R. Station
New York, N.Y. 10022

DIGNITY: Providence
c/o Mr. Frank Murphy
199 Garden Street
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860

DIGNITY: Washington, D.C.
c/o Apt. 204
215 C Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

DIGNITY: National office.
Room 514
755 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

THE GAY SYNAGOGUE
300 Ninth Avenue at 28th Street
New York, N.Y. 10001
Services: Friday, 8 p.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GAY CAUCUS
IN NEW YORK: c/o Mr. Milton Lounsberry,
Apt. 2D, 421 East 78th Street,
New York, N.Y. 10021. Phone:
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